

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2,4,6,7,8,9 and 10, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1,3 and 5 as follows:

1        1. (Currently Amended) An opener to facilitate the removal  
2 of a threaded lid from the top of a jar, said jar having an open  
3 mouth surrounded by a thread, said opener comprising a body  
4 ~~[have]~~ having an arcuate C-shape with an inner peripheral  
5 sidewall, an outer peripheral sidewall, an upper edge and a lower  
6 edge, said body terminating at two ends separated by ~~[[a]]~~ an  
7 open gap, an inwardly extending peripheral stop extending around  
8 said internal peripheral sidewall, adjacent to said upper edge,  
9 the region inside said internal peripheral sidewall and said stop  
10 being open, said body being made of a stiffly flexible self-shape  
11 retaining substance whereby said body can be spread conveniently  
12 to receive a lid, and restored to contact said lid and ~~[gripped~~  
13 ~~to press]~~ bearing against the lid while being twisted to remove  
14 the lid from the jar.

1        2. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 1 in which said  
2 outer peripheral sidewall is formed with serrations to improve  
3 its grip characteristics for the hand of a user.

1        3. (Currently Amended) An opener according to claim 1 in  
2 which said inner sidewall includes a pair of portions of  
3 different diameter whereby to form a shoulder facing toward

4     [[the]] said lower edge so proportioned and arranged as to stop a  
5     rim on a lid to limit the downward travel of the lower edge,  
6     whereby said lower edge is prevented from contacting said jar.

1           4. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 1 in which a  
2     stop extends around the inside of the said upper edge to prevent  
3     a lid from passing entirely through said body.

1           5. (Currently Amended) An opener according to claim 1 in  
2     which an abutment interconnects said ends of said body, bridging  
3     said gap, said abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said  
4     arms being connected to a respective end and to the bite  
5     projecting entirely beyond said outer sidewall whereby to be  
6     contactible by the thumb or a finger of a user, said abutment  
7     being unitary with said body, flexible and self-shape retaining.

1           6. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 5 in which said  
2     abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said arms being  
3     connected to a respective end and to the bight.

1           7. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 5 in which said  
2     inner sidewall includes a pair of portions of different diameter  
3     whereby to form a shoulder facing toward the lower edge so  
4     proportioned and arranged as to stop a rim on a lid to limit the  
5     downward travel of the lower edge, whereby said lower edge is

6 prevented from contacting said jar.

1 8. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 7 in which said  
2 outer peripheral sidewall is formed with serrations to improve  
3 its grip characteristics for the hand of a user..

1 9. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 7 in which said  
2 abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said arms being  
3 connected to a respective end and to the bight.

1 10. (Cancelled) An opener to facilitate the removal of a  
2 threaded lid from the top of a jar, said jar having an open mouth  
3 surrounded by a thread, said opener comprising a circular body  
4 with an inner peripheral sidewall, an outer peripheral sidewall,  
5 an upper edge and a lower edge, said body being made of a stiffly  
6 flexible self-shape retaining substance whereby said body can be  
7 spread conveniently to receive a lid, and gripped to press  
8 against the lid while being twisted to remove the lid from the  
9 jar, said inner sidewall including a pair of portions of  
10 different diameter whereby to form a shoulder facing toward the  
11 lower edge so proportioned and arranged as to stop a rim on a lid  
12 to limit the downward travel of the lower edge, whereby said  
13 lower edge is prevented from contacting said jar.